11/18/88

Dear Jerry and Charles,

I don't know whether you are interested in having this paperback of Tony Summers' book on Marilyn Munroe or not or whether my few comments to his lawyer, who is mine also, are of any interest but I have no desire to keep it.

I believe I did not mention all my objections. I do regard such books as sleaze. This one is, I believe, over-written, that what is really fact is misrepresented and exaggerated, and that what is not fact is represented as fact.

It is not that I doubt for a minute that JFK had lady friends after he was married. I was the guest of one for most of a week toward the end of 1968 and, had it been possible for me to return to the San Francisco area at a later date, she had agreed to do an oral history with me about their relationship that she would put aside for some years but would preserve. She was Joan Hitchcock, since died, and I do recall some of what she told me. Including that he made it clear that a) he loved Jackie and b) wondered if she was also sleeping around. She said he and she got together during the convention that nominated him and they almost got caught. I do not have such knowledge about Robert and believe that this part in particular is grossly exaggerated and entirely unfair.

Consistent with modern British journalism, at least the popular, I know that Summers has exaggerated and misrepresented in his not good book on the JFK assassination, Conspiracy, and that he currently continues to misrepresent on the alleged mafia connection that I believe did not exist at all. I know no reasonable basis for crediting it.

I regard this as part of a large effort to diminish the accomplishments for the country of the Kennedys in politics.

The lack of balance in such matters is indicated by the comparative lack of attention to Dwight Eisenhower's affair with Kay Summersby and currently, the great difference between what happened to Gary Hart and did not happen to George Bush. I know a young investigator who has interviewed at least one of the women with whom Bush had extramarital affairs and even the Democrats did not use this. He was on the staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and is a college-trained criminalist, his present career.

None of this has prevented my cooperation with Summers in the past or the present. I've given him much for the biography of J. Edgar Hoover he is about finished researching. He is about to return to his home in Ireland to write it. I expect a visit from two of his staff before they go back with him. He's had access to all I have, made the copies he wanted, I've loaned him a transcribing machine and I've directed him to original sources never before interviewed.

This is also to let you both know that today I got a cassette of the recent British TV show that got so much attention, "The Man Who Killed Kennedy." Takes two hours. If you or anyone else wants to see it before it is deposited just let me know. I attach the covering letter. He knows, Turner does, that I object to any such theorizing and, in fact, had refused to have anything to do with his project until he assured me he would not engage in this dubious practise. I will want to look at it only one time so if you know anyone who wants to see it, we can view it at the same time.

I am getting a cassette of the Nova show of night before last that you also will get and can have when I get it, from a former Washington correspondent of The Times of London, Ian McDonald.

I presume that John H. Davis will send me a copy of his book on Carlos Marcello as the JFK assassination Kingfish and you'll get that if and when I do. For your records, Charles, I got a Hood student, Amy Stevens, to do his research here and she located and copied what he wanted. Best wishes, Harold Weisberg

Harold